beign supplied to the Ramgarh plant contains high concentration of Nitrogen which does not contribute to heat energy/ power generation; and

(c) if so, whether Government would examine the Rajasthan Government's request to review the price of the Ramgarh gas plant and notify the concessional rate for the same to boost gas utilisation from small gasfield in Rajasthan; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The price of gas is Rs. 1850 per thousand cubic metres excluding royalty, taxes & transportation charges. In the North-East, the price is Rs. 1000 per thousand cubic metres with the provision of a discount of Rs. 400 per thousand cubic metre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ramgarh Plant is entitled to pay a lower price of gas appropriate to the low calorific value.

Petroleum Exploration Licencing Policy

4365. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new petroleum exploration licencing policy being put in place of the existing one, as enunciated by Prime Minister at a conference at Goa recently;

(b) in what way it differs from the existing system and the details of benefits which would accrue from it;

(c) the areas of exploration which would be offered under the new system;

(d) whether on-shore and off-shore areas offers would be clubbed or be put up separately under the new system; and

(e) the details of the likely investment under the new system on on-shore and off-shore exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The salient features of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) announced recently are given below:—

— Open availability of exploration acreage in addition to existing bidding rounds.
— Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. to compete for obtaining exploration licences on competitive basis alongwith other private sector companies.
— Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. to be provided a level playing field by providing same fiscal and contract terms as available for private companies.
— Special package to encourage exploration in deep water and frontier areas.
— Freedom to contractors for marketing of crude oil and gas in the domestic market.

(c) and (d) Both on-shore and off-shore areas will be offered under NELP depending upon their availability.

(e) It is too early to estimate the amount of investment under NELP.

Supply of Kerosene oil below National Average

4366. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa are Supplied kerosene in quantities, much below the national average; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) Kerosene is allocated to the States/UTs on a historical basis, i.e based on past allocations and consumption. The per capita availability of kerosene in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa

is lower than the national average. The per capita availability in West Bengal is above national average. Kerosene allocated during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 was almost maintained at the same level as for 1990-91 owing to constraints in the availability of foreign exchange. However, on persistent demand from the States/Uts, a 3% increase has been made in the allocations during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 over the previous years for the country as a whole. The States having lower per capita availability were given higher increases and vice-versa so as to reduce the disparities in the availability of kerosene among various States/UTs. The allocation to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa for the year 1997-98 have been increased by 50015 MTs, 31818 MTs, 21455 MTs and 11800 MTs respectively representing increases of 4.4%, 4.9%, 2.8% and 5.2% respectively over the last year against 3% increase for the country as a whole.

Allocation of liquid fuel to power project in Gujarat

4367. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to short supply of coal to power stations, Government had announced in October, 1995, the setting up of power generation projects based on liquid fuel;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that acting on this policy Gujarat Government chalked out various projects for power generation based on liquid fuel and the liquid fuel linkage for them, totalling 3700 MW, was programmed by the State Government;

(c) whether the Central Government allotted liquid fuel linkage only for 1230 MW, as compared to the proposed requirement; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to allocate the balance requirement of liquid fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (d) In order to meet the demand for electricity, it has been estimated that for IX Plan period (1997—2002), the country would require an incremental capacity of about 57000 MW and the requirement during the Xth Plan (2002—2007) is estimated to be 65000 MW. In order to meet the shortages, many State Governments have been requesting the Government of India to permit setting up of liquid fuel based power plants in the private sector as these plants have the advantage of shorter gestation period. The Government have formulated the Liquid Fuel Policy for the purpose and have decided to allow development of 12000 MW of power generation capacity based on liquid fuels in the Country. State-wise allocation of this capacity has been made by the Ministry of Power on the basis of additional requirement and energy and peaking shortages of States by the end of IX Plan. Allocation of liquid fuels is being made to the power projects in the States on the recommendation of the Ministry of Power limited to the power capacity allocated to the respective States.

The power capacity based on liquid fuel allocated to the State of Gujarat is 1230 MW. Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Power for allocation of liquid fuel for 13 power projects in the State with a total capacity of 561.7 MW and orders were issued on 25.4.1997, a allocating liquid fuel to these projects. Allocation of liquid fuel for projects to the extent of the balance of the power capacity allocated to Gujarat will be made on receipt of recommendations from the Ministry of Power.

Representation regarding HPCL Pipeline in Andhra Pradesh

4368. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: